

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01 /072 W  
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R 161530Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6493

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PORG, MT, COE

SUBJ: NATIONALIST PARTY RAISES POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN  
MALTA AT COE MEETING

REF: VALLETTA 1112 (NOTAL)

1. TWO DELEGATES FROM THE OPPOSITION NATIONALIST PARTY  
RAISED THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MALTA  
AT THE 27TH SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE HELD IN EARLY OCTOBER. BOTH VINCENT  
TABONE, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE PARTY, AND GUIDO DE MARCO,  
SHADOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY ON THIS  
SUBJECT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE DISRUPTION OF  
THE NATIONALISTS' SEPTEMBER 21 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS  
IN VALLETTA BY A GROUP OF UNLAWFULLY ASSEMBLED LABOR PARTY  
TOUGHS (REFTEL).

2. THE TWO NATIONALIST SPEAKERS REFERRED TO A GENERAL  
"EROSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS" IN MALTA OVER  
THE PAST FOUR YEARS UNDER THE LABOR ADMINISTRATION  
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OF PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF, AND CALLED FOR

CONDEMNATION OF GROWING VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST  
THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MALTESE NATIONALIST  
PARTY.

3. A WRITTEN DECLARATION ON THE SUBJECT WAS SUBMITTED  
TO THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY AUSTRIAN, BRITISH  
AND ITALIAN DELEGATES IN ADDITION TO BATONE AND DE  
MARCO. THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY  
WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

QUOTE IN MALTA, ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1975, INDEPENDENCE  
DAY, DURING A LAWFUL DEMONSTRATION BY THE NATIONALIST  
PARTY, POLICE, UNDER MR. MINTOFF'S MINISTERIAL RES-  
PONSIBILITY, NOT ONLY FAILED TO STOP ILLEGAL ACTS  
COMMITTED BY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS TO OBSTRUCT WITH  
VIOLENCE THE DEMONSTRATION BUT TURNED ON THE LAWFUL  
DEMONSTRATORS ATTACKING THEM WITH STONES AND TRUNCHEONS.

QUOTE A YOUNG NATIONALIST SUFFERED A DEPRESSED  
FRACTURE OF THE SKULL; GUIDO DE MARCO, A MEMBER OF THIS  
ASSEMBLY AND BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET, A FORMER MEMBER,  
BEATEN UP BY THE POLICE. MANY WERE  
INJURED.

QUOTE THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE PART OF A PATTERN  
LASTING OVER FOUR YEARS.

QUOTE THERE HAVE BEEN:

A. ATTEMPTS ON RIGHT OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND  
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION BY VIOLENCE AND  
INTIMIDATION;  
B. DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF MALTESE CITIZENS;  
C. PARTISAN BIAS IN TV NEWS AND REPORTING;  
D. ABUSE IN THE EXERCISE OF POLICE POWER;  
E. DE FACTO IMMUNITY GIVEN TO THUGS IN THEIR  
ATTACKS ON NATIONALIST SUPPORTERS, MEETINGS  
AND CLUBS;  
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F. ATTEMPTS AT INTIMIDATION AND INTERFERENCE IN  
THE DUTIES OF THE COURTS;  
G. THE SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT  
FROM JANUARY 1972 TO JANUARY 1975.

QUOTE THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO RECOGNIZE  
THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL PETITION AND COMPULSORY JURIS-  
DICTION OF THE COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOTWITHSTANDING

RESOLUTION 597 (1975) ADOPTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
(DOC. 3617).

QUOTE THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY TABONE, DE  
MARCO, BENNETT, HEGER, VEDOVATO, AMREHN, REALE. END  
QUOTE

4. MALTESE PRESS REPORTS ON THE ASSMELBY SESSION HAVE  
QUOTED U.S. DELEGATE CONGRESSMAN RYAN (PRESUMBL Y  
DEMOCRAT LEO J. RYAN OF IALIFORNIA) AS BEING  
"IMPRESSED BY THE SRIOUSNESS OF THE CHARGES"1 .-\$3  
?6 5#3 ,-\$89,-)8 5 43043 3,5-58;3 . CONGRESSMAN  
RYAN REPORTEDLY SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AAARE OF THE  
PROBLEMS IN MALTA, BUT THAT HE HOPED SOMETHING COULD  
BE DONE ABOUT I. HE ADDED, "I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT  
FOR THIS BODY (THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE), AS IT DID  
THIS AFTERNOON, TO LISTEN WHEN DR. DE MARCO BRINGS  
FORWARD THIS IOMPLAINT. IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MATTER  
IF THIS BODY COULD NOT AKE SOME KIND OF ACTION IN  
RESPONSE TO A COMPLAINT FROM A MEMBER."

5. COMMENT: PREDICTABLY, MINTOFF'S LABOR SUPPORTERS  
HAVE BEEN INCENSED BY THE EFFRONTERY OF THE NATIONALISTS  
IN CARRYING THEIR COMPLAINTS TO AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM.  
A MALTESE LABOR DELEGATE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE LASHED BACK  
IMMEDIATELY AND, IN TYPICAL MALTESE POLITICAL FASHION,  
TOLD THE ASSEMBLY IT WAS THE NATIONALIST PARTY (AND  
GUIDO DE MARCO PERSONALLY) WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN MALTA, NOT THE LABOR  
GOVERNMENT. (THE TORTURED LOGIC OF THIS REJOINDER  
RELATES ONLY TO A CURRENT TRIAL IN MALTA FOR WHICH GUIDO  
DE MARCO, AS A PRIVATE LAWYER IN THE CASE, HAS OBTAINED  
A COURT INJUNCTION AGAINST THE PREMATURE PUBLIC RELEASE  
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OF THE EVIDENCE BEING PRESENTED.) THE PRO-MINTOFFIAN  
LABOR PRESS ALSO HAS TAKEN UP THE CUDGELS WITH A  
VENGEANCE, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S  
REPORTED STATEMENTS, WHICH THE LABOR SUPPORTERS  
SEE AS AN UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN MALTA'SHARPLY  
PARTISAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESS. AS IS COMMON  
WITH MINTOFF AND THE LABORITTES, THE INVOLVEMENT OF  
A "FOREIGNER" IN THE QUARREL HAS ONLY SERVED TO MAKE  
MATTERS MUCH WORSE. AS A RESULT, WE MAY WELL HEAR  
MORE ABOUT THIS CONTRETEMPS.SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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